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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/760,074	01/12/2001	Srinivas S. Rao	1-20306	3376
4859	7590	09/11/2002		

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EXAMINER

LIN, KUANG Y

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1725	9

DATE MAILED: 09/11/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/760,074

Applicant(s)

RAO ET AL.

Examiner

Kuang Y. Lin

Art Unit

1725

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 July 2002.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,2,5-7,10 and 13-17 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,2,5-7,10 and 13-17 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

6) Other: _____

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 10, and 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combined teaching of Germany 3,619,525 and applicants' admitted prior art as set forth in pages 1-2 of the specification.

Germany '525 shows to use a low pressure casting process for casting motor vehicle wheel. The process includes application of vibration to the casting mold during the solidification process of the molten metal. In short Germany '525 substantially shows the invention as claimed except that it does not show the structure of the casting mold. The admitted prior art shows that it is conventional to gravity cast or pressure cast a vehicle wheel with multi-segment mold to

facilitate the casting removal step after the casting solidified. In short, the admitted prior art substantially shows the invention as claimed except that it does not show to use a vibrator. In view of the prior art teachings as a whole, it would have been obvious to use the conventional multi-segment mold in the process of Germany '525 to facilitate the casting removal. It would also have been obvious to vibrate the mold of the admitted prior art to refine the grain in view of Germany '525. Although Germany '535 did not disclose the type and location of the vibrator, it would have been obvious to those of ordinary skill to use an appropriate type of the vibrator to place the same at an appropriate location of the mold in the process of Germany. Further, it would also have been obvious to obtain the optimal timing of vibration through routine experimentation.

4. Applicant's arguments filed July 30, 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

a. In page 6 of the remarks applicants stated that Germany' 525 does not suggest to use a pneumatically powered vibration device and the device of Germany '525 could well be an electro-magnetic vibrator device. He further stated that the compressed air, which is not affected by the high temperatures encountered in a foundry, can be supplied from a readily available source. However, it is unclear how the high temperature of the foundry shop will affect the compressed air in operating the pneumatic vibrator. Further, it is a common knowledge that either a pneumatic or an electric powered vibrator are commonly used in the foundry industry (see for example, US 61,65,411 to Adachi et al).

Therefore, either to use a pneumatic or an electric powered vibrators is deemed to be nothing more than an obvious design choice.

b. With respect to the claimed adjustable pressure regulator, it would have been obvious to provide any vibrator with a regulating means such that to control the designated vibrating frequency and amplitude.

c. With respect to the argument as appearing in page 7, 4th paragraph of the remarks, it is noted that claim 10 broadly states "supplying compressed air to vibration device ---- upon completion of the filling --for a portion of the time required for the molten metal to solidify; and shutting off the supply of compressed air ---- after the portion of the time required for the metal to solidify has elapsed". The portion of the time for each stage depends on the specific process parameters, such as the alloy system, the molten metal temperature, the filling speed, the mold temperature. It would have obvious to obtain the timing cycle through routine experimentation.

5. The patents to Adachi et al and Weber are cited to further show the state of the art.

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kuang Y. Lin whose telephone number is 703-308-2322. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:00-6:30,.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas X Dunn can be reached on 703-308-3318. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-7719 for regular communications and 703-305-3599 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

September 6, 2002



KUANG Y. LIN
EXAMINER
GROUP 220

1725